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JAZZ NOTES

Quintet Keeps Blakey's Memory Alive

By ZAN STEWART
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Though its future is still uncertain, the new band formed last summer and known as A Tribute to Art Blakey, seems to have much potential.

The quintet, which plays Tuesday through next Sunday at Catalina Bar & Grill, is an all-star aggregation whose members are Cedar Walton, piano; Javon Jackson, tenor saxophone; Philip Harper, trumpet, and Essiet Okun Essiet, bass. The players alternatively worked with Blakey from the early '60s to 1990 when the acclaimed drummer died on Oct. 16. The renowned Louis Hayes will play the drum chair.

"This is a great opportunity to relive and re-create musical moments associated with Art," said Walton, who worked with Blakey from 1961-64 and whose classic compositions "Mosaic" and "Ugetsu" were recorded by Blakey and will be performed by the tribute quintet. (Jackson worked with Blakey from 1986-90.) The band will also play such numbers by other ex-Blakey-ites as Benny Golson's "Blues March" and "Whisper Not," Bobby Timmons' "Moanin'" and Freddie Hubbard's "Up Jumped Spring."

Walton—who these days is usually heard leading a superlative trio with Billy Higgins, drums, and David Williams, bass—said playing with Blakey, who fronted his Jazz Messengers band beginning in 1955, was essentially an honor.

"Art led a magnificent finishing school for young artists. There was no way you couldn't learn in his presence," Walton said. "Just his selecting you meant you had something." Clifford Brown, Lee Morgan, Wayne Shorter, Hubbard, Hank Mobley and Kenny Dorham are just six of the jazz giants who passed through the Blakey ranks.

Though the tribute band has only worked a few engagements—a premiere in Denver in August and a recent week in San Diego, with Ralph Penland on drums—and has no offers for either future dates or a recording, Walton sees no reason why it shouldn't continue to perform, perhaps with a rotating personnel.

Los Angeles Times
The late Art Blakey in 1985: His legacy lives on in a new band.

"The music produced by Art was jazz that was commercial but still made a powerful jazz statement, and there's no reason to supress it," he said. "It might well get the same reaction as it did when played by Art, perhaps even more if it were updated. And it would be a great chair for drummers."

Grossman Benefit: Cornetist Bobby Bradford, guitarist Nels Cline, saxophonist Vinny Golia, the band Cruel Frederick and poet Richard Meltzer are just a few of the new music artists who on Thursday will play a tribute to improvising pianist Richard Grossman, who died Oct. 3, after a two-year battle with cancer.

"It will be some wildness," said Cline of the event, which takes place from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. at the Alligator Lounge in Santa Monica. Proceeds go to Grossman's widow, Dorothea, to offset medical expenses. There is a $12 donation requested. Donations may also be sent to Ms. Grossman, 2414 S. Barrington Ave., No. 204, Los Angeles 90064.

Hale and 'Harry': Though she's perhaps best known as a jazz harpist and pianist, Corky Hale has another occupation. She and her partner, Judy Arnold, are producers, and it's their production of "Give 'Em Hell, Harry," the one-man show about Harry Truman, that's currently at the Tiffany Theatre in Hollywood. The show, which closes Nov. 1, stars Jason Alexander.

Hale, who, on both harp and piano, has played with a number of major stars, from Streisand and Sinatra to Liberace, Mel Torme and Billie Holiday, will appear Tuesday at the Moonlight Tango Cafe in Sherman Oaks, as a guest pianist with Pat Longo's Super Big Band. It will be an impromptu performance, she said. "I don't know what we'll play," she said. Will she practice, she's asked? "I never do. I don't have time. My schedule is too crazy."

Critic's Choice: An alluring blend of Latin rhythms and sometimes soothing, sometimes racing guitar lines are what you'll get from Jorge Strunz and Ardeshir Farah, who bring their propulsive offerings tonight to the Coach House in San Juan Capistrano and Saturday to the Wadsworth Theater in Brentwood.

Olmos to Speak at Community Assembly Meeting

Actor and activist James Edward Olmos will speak on "Putting the Pieces Together in L.A." at a Community Organizations Assembly from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Oct. 29.

The assembly, to be held at the Olympic Collection Banquet and Conference Center at 11301 Olympic Blvd., is put on by the Women's Conference of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles.

Conference fees are $26, including a luncheon.

Information: (213) 852-1234, ext. 3010.

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CENTURY Theatres
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ORANGE/SANTA ANA
CENTURY CINEDOME 11 Chapman & Santa Ana Fwy. (714) 634-2553
Kevin Kline ★ Dolby/CONSENTING ADULTS(R) (12:30 2:45-5:10) 7:30-9:50
A Clive Barker Film Dolby/CANDYMAN(R) (12:20-2:40-5:15) 7:40-10:00
Steven Segal/UNDER SIEGE(R) In Digital Dolby/(12:00 2:25-4:50) 7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo/(1:05-3:25) 5:50-8:15-10:30
Dustin Hoffman/Geena Davis Dolby/HERO(PG-13) (12:05-2:40-5:15) 7:50-10:20
Al Pacino/Jack Lemmon Dolby/GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS(R) (12:35-2:50-5:00) 7:15-9:25
Matt Dillon/Bridget Fonda Dolby/SINGLES(PG-13) (12:10-2:15-4:25) 7:10-9:30
Kurt Russell/Martin Short Dolby/CAPTAIN RON(PG-13) (12:50-3:00-5:20) 7:25-9:35
Dolby/SCHOOL TIES(PG-13) (12:20-2:40-5:05) 7:30-9:50
Robert Redford Dolby/SNEAKERS(PG-13) (12:15-2:50-5:20) 7:55-10:25
Nicolas Cage Dolby/HONEYMOON IN VEGAS(PG-13) (12:45-2:50-5:00) 7:10-9:20
CENTURY 4 The City Shopping Ctr Metropolitan Dr. at Lewis Nr. Crystal Cathedral (714) 634-9505
SISTER ACT(PG) 1:00-3:05-5:10 7:15-9:20 All Seats $1.50 All Times
PATRIOT GAMES(R) 5:30-7:45-10:00 All Seats $1.50 All Times
DEATH BECOMES HER(PG-13) 2:50-7:00 HOUSESITTER(PG) 12:50-4:55-9:05 All Seats $1.50 All Times
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST(G) 12:15-2:00-3:45 All Seats $1.50 All Times
BOOMERANG(R) 3:00-7:20 MO' MONEY(R) 1:05-5:20-9:40 All Seats $1.50 All Times

N. HOLLYWOOD
SENIORS $2.50 MONDAY-THURSDAY ALL SHOWS TILL 5:45 PM
CENTURY 7 Victory & Coldwater Cyn. (818) 508-6004 FREE PARKING
Joe Pesci THX ★ THE PUBLIC EYE(R) (12:15-2:35-5:00) 7:25-9:45
Steven Segal THX/UNDER SIEGE(R) On 2 Screens (12:00-12:30 2:20-3:00-4:40-5:30) 7:00-7:45-9:20-10:15
Emilio Estevez THX/THE MIGHTY DUCKS(PG) (12:05-2:25-4:45) 7:05-9:30
Dustin Hoffman/Geena Davis Dolby/HERO(PG-13) (12:00-2:40-5:15) 7:50-10:25
Dolby/SCHOOL TIES(PG-13) 12:20-2:45-5:10 (7:35) 10:00
Robert Redford Dolby/SNEAKERS(PG-13) (1:00-3:45) 7:00-9:45

VENTURA/OXNARD
CENTURY 8 Fwy. 101 & Johnson Dr. (805) 644-5666
Kevin Kline ★ Dolby/CONSENTING ADULTS(R) (12:40-3:00-5:25) 7:50-10:10
Joe Pesci ★ Dolby/THE PUBLIC EYE(R) (12:30-2:50-5:10) 7:40-10:00
Steven Segal Dolby/UNDER SIEGE(R) On 2 Screens (12:15 1:05-2:30-3:15-5:00-5:35) 7:20-8:00-9:40-10:15

A Ridley Scott Film Dolby/1492(PG-13) (12:50-3:55) 7:00-10:05
Dustin Hoffman/Geena Davis Dolby/HERO(PG-13) (12:20-2:50-5:25) 7:50-10:20
Tom Selleck Dolby/MR. BASEBALL(PG-13) (12:15-2:35-4:55) 7:15-9:35
Martin Short/Kurt Russell Dolby/CAPTAIN RON(PG-13) (12:40-3:00-5:15) 7:30-9:50

DRIVE-IN THEATRES
CARSON/SO. BAY
SO. BAY 6 DRIVE-INS Carson Main St. Terrace Exit East From Harbor (213) 532-8811
Kevin Kline ★ CONSENTING ADULTS(R) THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE(R)
Steven Segal UNDER SIEGE(R) LETHAL WEAPON 3(R)
Whoopi Goldberg SARAFINA(PG-13) SISTER ACT(PG)
Emilio Estevez THE MIGHTY DUCKS(PG) 3 NINJAS(PG)
Raise some Hell PET SEMATARY 2(R) RAISING CAIN(R)
MO' MONEY(R) BOOMERANG(R)

ORANGE/SANTA ANA
STADIUM 8 DRIVE-INS Katella Near Stadium (714) 639-8770
Kevin Kline ★ CONSENTING ADULTS(R) THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE(R)
A Clive Barker Film CANDYMAN(R) BASIC INSTINCT(R)
Daniel Day-Lewis THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS(PG-13) RAPID FIRE(R)
Tom Selleck MR. BASEBALL(PG-13) HERO(PG-13)
INNOCENT BLOOD(R) UNFORGIVEN(R)
Kurt Russell CAPTAIN RON(PG-13) THE MIGHTY DUCKS(PG)
Robert Redford SNEAKERS(PG-13) MR. SATURDAY NIGHT(R)
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INDEPENDENT THEATRE GUIDE
PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

LOS ANGELES DOWNTOWN
LOS ANGELES, 615 S. Broadway—239-0957 Candyman; Innocent Blood; White Sands(R)
ORPHEUM, 8th & Broadway—239-0937 Under Siege; Out for Justice(R)
STATE, 7th & Broadway—239-0962 Under Siege; Hellraiser 3; Marked for Death

EAST LOS ANGELES
UNIQUE, 3645 E. 1st St.—261-4687 Call Theatre for Program

L.A. NEIGHBORHOOD
BALDWIN #1, 3741 S. La Brea—290-1991 Whoopi Goldberg: "Sarafina"(PG-13)
BALDWIN #2, 3741 S. La Brea—290-1991 Steven Seagal: "Under Siege"(R)
BALDWIN #3, 3741 S. La Brea—290-1991 South Central(R)

HOLLYWOOD
HAWAIIAN GARDENS, 5959 H'wood—465-8411 Call Theatre for Program
LOS FELIZ, 1822 N. Vermont—664-2169 Dolby/Tim Robbins: "Bob Roberts"(R)
NEW VISTA, 4473 Sunset Dr.—660-5639 Dolby/Joe Pesci: "The Public Eye"(R)

WILSHIRE DISTRICT
BEVERLY CINEMA, 7165 Bev. Bl—938-4038 Zentropa; The Nasty Girl
FOUR STAR, 5112 Wilshire Blvd.—936-3533 The General's Son, III (subtitles)
VAGABOND, 2509 Wilshire—387-2171 Laws of Gravity

SANTA MONICA PACIFIC PALISADES
AERO, Montana at 14th St.—395-4990 Honeymoon in Vegas; Mr. Baseball(PG-13)
MALIBU THEATER 1, Malibu—456-6990 Hero(PG-13) 4:45-7:15-9:45
MALIBU THEATER 2, Malibu—456-6990 Last of Mohicans(R) 4:30-7:00-9:30

TUJUNGA-EAGLE ROCK HIGHLAND PARK
EAGLE, 4884 Eagle Rock Bl.—256-3996 Single White Female; Rapid Fire(R)
HIGHLAND 1, 5604 N. Figueroa—256-6383 Mr. Baseball(PG-13); Hellraiser 3(R)
HIGHLAND 2, 5604 N. Figueroa—256-6383 Honey, I Blew Up the Kid; 3 Ninjas(PG)
HIGHLAND 3, 5604 N. Figueroa—256-6383 Sister Act(PG); Sneakers(PG-13)

PASADENA-DUARTE
ACADEMY 1, 1003 E. Colorado—818/585-2278 Sister Act; A League of Their Own(PG)
ACADEMY 2, near Lake Ave.—818/585-2278 Honeymoon in Vegas; Death Becomes Her
ACADEMY 3, Bargain Prices Always Mo' Money; Boomerang(R)
ACADEMY 4, $2 Wed.—818/585-2278 Honey, I Blew Up the Kid; 3 Ninjas(PG)
ACADEMY 5, $3 Thu.-Tues.—818/585-2278 Single White Female; Hellraiser 3(R)
ACADEMY 6, Parking behind Theater Raising Cain; Pet Sematary 2(R)
STATE, 770 E. Colorado—585-2278 Films from China

WHITTIER
WHITTIER VILLAGE #1—907-3300 Alan J. Pakula's "Consenting Adults"(R)
WHITTIER VILLAGE #2—7038 Greenleaf Daniel Day-Lewis: "The Last of the Mohicans"
WHITTIER VILLAGE #3—907-3300 Mr. Saturday Night(R); Sneakers(PG-13)

SAN DIMAS-COVINA
CANYON, San Dimas—714/599-2345 Daniel Day-Lewis: "The Last of the Mohicans"

SEAL BEACH-LONG BEACH
ART, 2025 E. 4th, Long Beach—438-5435 Tim Robbins: "Bob Roberts"(R)
BAY, 340 Main, Seal Beach—431-9988 Light Sleeper

ORANGE COUNTY
ANAHEIM, Brookhurst 1—714/778-6910 $1.50/Stay Tuned; Death Becomes Her(PG-13)
ANAHEIM, Brookhurst 2, 2299 W. Ball Rd. $1.50/Rapid Fire(R); Housesitter(PG)
ANAHEIM, Brookhurst 3—714/778-6910 $3.50/Sister Act; League of Their Own(PG)
ANAHEIM, Brookhurst 4, 2299 W. Ball Rd. $3.50/Honey, I Blew Up the Kid; 3 Ninjas(PG)
ANAHEIM, Brookhurst 5, Value Card $2 $1.50/Hellraiser 3; Raising Cain(R)
ANAHEIM, Brookhurst 6, 2299 W. Ball Rd. $3.50/Mr. Sat. Night; Single White Female(R)
CYPRESS, Family Twin #1—714/828-1660 Emilio Estevez: "The Mighty Ducks"(PG)
CYPRESS, Family Twin #2—714/828-1660 Dustin Hoffman/Geena Davis: "Hero"
FOUNTAIN VLY., Family Four #1—963-1307 Tom Selleck: "Mr. Baseball"(PG-13)
FOUNTAIN VLY., Family Four #2—963-1307 Sneakers(PG-13); A League of Their Own(PG)
FOUNTAIN VLY., Family Four #3—963-1307 Sister Act(PG); Sarafina(PG-13)
FOUNTAIN VLY., Family Four #4—963-1307 Captain Ron; Death Becomes Her(PG-13)
GARDEN GROVE, Valley Vw. #1 714/894-5338 Daniel Day-Lewis: "The Last of the Mohicans"
GARDEN GROVE, Valley Vw. #2 714/894-5338 Mr. Baseball; Captain Ron(PG-13)

SOUTH BAY
BIJOU #1, 1229 Hermosa Ave.—318-2668 Enchanted April; Husbands and Wives
BIJOU #2, Hermosa Beach—318-2668 Bob Roberts(R) 6:45-8:45

HUNTINGTON PARK SOUTH GATE-BELL
NEW ALLEN, 3809 Tweedy—567-6466 Mr. Baseball; Honeymoon in Vegas(PG-13)

DOWNEY-NORWALK CERRITOS
AVENUE, 11022 Downey Ave.—861-8952 $2.50/Sneakers(PG-13); Sister Act(PG)

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
AMERICANA 5, Van Nuys at Parthenia $1.50/I Blew Up The Kid; Batman Returns
AMERICANA 5, 818/893-6441 $1.50/Rapid Fire; Lethal Weapon 3(R)
AMERICANA 5, Panorama City $1.50/Mo' Money; Hellraiser 3(R)
AMERICANA 5, Van Nuys at Parthenia $1.50/Sister Act; Hand Rocks Cradle(R)
AMERICANA 5—818/893-6441 $1.50/Death Becomes Her; Vampire Slayer
PEPPERTREE 1, 10155 Reseda—993-0211 $3/Honeymoon in Vegas; Single White Female
PEPPERTREE 2, Value Card $2.00 $3/Sister Act; A League of Their Own(PG)
PEPPERTREE 3, Bargain Prices Always $2/Death Becomes Her(PG-13); Stay Tuned
PEPPERTREE 4, 10155 Reseda—993-0211 $2/Honey, I Blew Up the Kid(PG)
PEPPERTREE 5, 10155 Reseda—993-0211 $2/Enchanted April(PG)
PLAZA 1, Newhall—805/259-8433 $2/Sister Act(PG)/mat.-Beauty and Beast(G)
PLAZA 2, Newhall—Value Card $2 $2/Death Becomes Her(PG-13) Housesitter
PLAZA 3, 805/259-8433—Value Card $2 $2/Honey, I Blew Up the Kid(PG)

VENTURA COUNTY
CAMARILLO, 390 N. Lantana—805/389-3673 Captain Ron; Mr. Baseball(PG-13)
CAMARILLO, 390 N. Lantana—805/389-3673 Dustin Hoffman/Geena Davis: "Hero"
CAMARILLO, 390 N. Lantana—805/389-3673 Daniel Day-Lewis: "The Last of the Mohicans"
FILLMORE, Towne, 338 Central—524-0787 Call Theatre for Program
OJAI PLAYHOUSE, 145 E. Ojai—805/646-1011 Call Theatre for Program
SIMI, Simi Drive-In—526-6824 Under Siege(R); Mr. Baseball(PG-13)
THOUSAND OAKS, Melody #1—371-8883 Emilio Estevez: "The Mighty Ducks"(PG)
THOUSAND OAKS, Melody #2—371-8883 Joe Pesci/Barbara Hershey: "The Public Eye"
VENTURA, Mayfair—805/653-5112 Adam's Rib
WESTLAKE VIL., 4711 Lake Vu—889-2919 Alan J. Pakula's "Consenting Adults"(R)
WESTLAKE VIL., 4711 Lake Vu—889-2919 Tom Selleck: "Mr. Baseball"(PG-13)

SANTA BARBARA
CINEMA, 6050 Hollister, Goleta—963-9503 Steven Seagal: "Under Siege"(R)
CINEMA, 6050 Hollister, Goleta—963-9503 Emilio Estevez: "The Mighty Ducks"(PG)
FAIRVIEW, 251 N. Fairview, Goleta—963-9503 Sneakers; Singles(PG-13)
FAIRVIEW, 251 N. Fairview, Goleta—963-9503 Daniel Day-Lewis: "The Last of the Mohicans"
FIESTA FIVE, 916 State St.—963-9503 Consenting Adults(R)/mdnt.-Rocky Horror
FIESTA FIVE, 916 State St.—963-9503 Tom Selleck: "Mr. Baseball"(PG-13)
FIESTA FIVE, 916 State St.—963-9503 Steven Seagal: "Under Siege"(R)
FIESTA FIVE, 916 State St.—963-9503 Clive Barker's "Candyman"(R)
FIESTA FIVE, 916 State St.—963-9503 Emilio Estevez: "The Mighty Ducks"(PG)
GRANADA, 1216 State, Sta. Barb.—963-9503 Call Theatre for Program
GRANADA, 1216 State, Sta. Barb.—963-9503 Call Theatre for Program
GRANADA, 1216 State, Sta. Barb.—963-9503 Call Theatre for Program
METRO FOUR, 618 State St.—963-9503 Robert Redford: "Sneakers"(PG-13)
METRO FOUR, 618 State St.—963-9503 Daniel Day-Lewis: "The Last of the Mohicans"
METRO FOUR, 618 State St.—963-9503 Dustin Hoffman/Geena Davis: "Hero"(PG-13)
METRO FOUR, 618 State St.—963-9503 Joe Pesci/Barbara Hershey: "The Public Eye"
PASEO NUEVO 1, 8 W. De La Guerra Jack Lemmon: "Glengarry Glen Ross"(R)
PASEO NUEVO 2, Santa Barbara—963-9503 Billy Crystal: "Mr. Saturday Night"(R)
PASEO NUEVO 3, 8 W. De La Guerra Of Mice and Men(PG-13)
PASEO NUEVO 4, Santa Barbara—963-9503 1492: Conquest of Paradise(PG-13)
PLAZA DE ORO, 349 S. Hitchcock—963-9503 Singles(PG-13); Husbands and Wives(R)
PLAZA DE ORO, 349 S. Hitchcock—963-9503 Bob Roberts(R); Sarafina(PG-13)
RIVIERA, 2020 A.P.S., Santa Barb.—963-9503 Danzon; Pied Piper of Guadalupe
VICTORIA, 33 W. Victoria—805/965-1886 4th Animation Celebration 7:00-9:15

DRIVE-IN THEATRES
MISSION, Pomona—714/628-0511 Candyman; Basic Instinct(R)
MISSION, Pomona—714/628-0511 Mr. Baseball; Hero(PG-13)
MISSION, Pomona—714/628-0511 Consenting Adults; Hand Rocks Cradle(R)
MISSION, Pomona—714/628-0511 The Mighty Ducks; Captain Ron(PG-13)
RUBIDOUX 1, Hw. 99W, Riverside—683-4455 Mr. Baseball; Sneakers(PG-13)
RUBIDOUX 2, Hw. 99W, Riverside—683-4455 The Mighty Ducks(PG); Captain Ron(PG-13)
RUBIDOUX 3, Hw. 99W, Riverside—683-4455 Hero(PG-13); Mo' Money(R)
VAN BUREN, Arlington—688-2360 Consenting Adults; Hand Rocks Cradle(R)
VAN BUREN, Arlington—688-2360 Candyman; Basic Instinct(R)
VAN BUREN, Arlington—688-2360 Under Siege; Lethal Weapon 3(R)

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CRESTLINE, Village—338-3888 Tom Selleck: "Mr. Baseball"(PG-13)

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
FOX #1 BANNING—714/849-3277 Nicolas Cage: "Honeymoon in Vegas"
FOX #2 BANNING—714/849-3277 Steven Seagal: "Under Siege"(R)
FOX #3 BANNING—714/849-3277 Emilio Estevez: "The Mighty Ducks"(PG)
HEMET, 220 E. Florida St.—925-1022 Emilio Estevez: "The Mighty Ducks"(PG)
MORENO 4, 24775 Alessandro, Moreno Valley $2/Whoopi Goldberg: "Sister Act"(PG)
MORENO 4, Alessandro at Perris $2/Eddie Murphy: "Boomerang"(R)
MORENO 4, Moreno Valley—714/485-2897 $2/Raising Cain; Diggstown(R)
MORENO 4, Moreno Valley, All Seats $2 $2/Goldie Hawn: "Death Becomes Her"
RIVERSIDE METRO, 3849 7th St.—683-9777 Call Theatre for Program
RUSTIC IDYLLWILD—714/659-2747 Dustin Hoffman: "Hero"(PG-13) 7:00

PALM SPGS-PALM DESERT
COURTYARD 1, Palm Springs—322-3456 Joe Pesci/Barbara Hershey: "The Public Eye"
COURTYARD 2, Palm Springs—322-3456 Tom Selleck: "Mr. Baseball"(PG-13)
COURTYARD 3, Palm Springs—322-3456 Clive Barker's "Candyman"(R)
COURTYARD 4, Palm Springs—322-3456 Dustin Hoffman/Geena Davis: "Hero"
COURTYARD 5, Palm Springs—322-3456 Daniel Day-Lewis: "The Last of the Mohicans"
COURTYARD 6, Palm Springs—322-3456 Of Mice and Men(PG-13)
COURTYARD 7, Palm Springs—322-3456 Steven Seagal: "Under Siege"(R)
COURTYARD 8, Palm Springs—322-3456 1492: Conquest of Paradise(PG-13)
COURTYARD 9, Palm Springs—322-3456 Jack Lemmon: "Glengarry Glen Ross"(R)
COURTYARD 10, Palm Springs—322-3456 Alan J. Pakula's "Consenting Adults"(R)
CINEMA THREE #1, Palm Desert—322-3456 Of Mice and Men(PG-13)
CINEMA THREE #2, Palm Desert—322-3456 Sneakers(PG-13)/sep.-Captain Ron(PG-13)
CINEMA THREE #3, Palm Desert—322-3456 Robert DeNiro: "Mistress"(R)
CINEMA TEN #1, Palm Desert—322-3456 Tom Selleck: "Mr. Baseball"(PG-13)
CINEMA TEN #2, Palm Desert—322-3456 Joe Pesci/Barbara Hershey: "The Public Eye"
CINEMA TEN #3, Palm Desert—322-3456 Dustin Hoffman/Geena Davis: "Hero"
CINEMA TEN #4, Palm Desert—322-3456 1492: Conquest of Paradise(PG-13)
CINEMA TEN #5, Palm Desert—322-3456 Emilio Estevez: "The Mighty Ducks"(PG)
CINEMA TEN #6, Palm Desert—322-3456 Daniel Day-Lewis: "The Last of the Mohicans"
CINEMA TEN #7, Palm Desert—322-3456 Steven Seagal: "Under Siege"(R)
CINEMA TEN #8, Palm Desert—322-3456 Mr. Saturday Night(R); Honeymoon in Vegas
CINEMA TEN #9, Palm Desert—322-3456 Clive Barker's "Candyman"(R)
CINEMA TEN #10, Palm Desert—322-3456 Jack Lemmon: "Glengarry Glen Ross"(R)

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Los Angeles Times

A 'World' Full of Rewards at Henry Fonda Theatre

By SYLVIE DRAKE
TIMES THEATER CRITIC

Fans of the snappy, all-singing, all-dancing musical revue that zeros in on a pair of Broadway collaborators have double rewards waiting for them as long as "The World Goes 'Round" at the Henry Fonda Theatre in Hollywood.

Overtly, this smart and refreshing little show zooms in on the richness and variety of the music and lyrics of Broadway stalwarts John Kander and Fred Ebb, respectively. Invertly, it owes at least as much of its success to the lesser-known but up-and-coming collaborating team of director Scott Ellis and choreographer Susan Stroman (who won the Tony this year for her work on "Crazy for You"). It is Ellis' sense of pace and structure and Stroman's fresh ideas about how to move bodies on a stage that make this "World" such a lively place to be.

Ellis and Stroman, who conceived this "World" off-Broadway in 1991 with librettist David Thompson, also knew who should be in it—not necessarily by individuals but by types. Performers who would bring their own diversity to bear on the diversity in the music. The spiffy cast at the Fonda includes Joel Blum, Shelley Dickinson, Marin Mazzie, John Ruess and Karen Ziémba.

Blum and Mazzie were in the off-Broadway company and Ziémba (who received accolades this year for her roles in Broadway revivals of "Most Happy Fella" and "110 in the Shade") is an original cast member. All of which doesn't seem to make a bit of difference. All five have contagious, symbiotic fun, together, in small groups or alone.

Among them they deliver 31 songs that, liberated from the curse of patter, reflect the breadth and versatility of the under-heralded Kander and Ebb repertory.

The score for Martin Scorcese's film "New York, New York" provides the title song and the closing number. But the majority of the songs are out of the musical theater canon—from the ultra well-known "Cabaret" to the best-forgotten "Woman of the Year" (although Blum's intense rendition of "Sometimes a Day Goes By" belies the threadbare book of the show that spawned it). In between we have ballads from "Zorba" and "Chicago"; the less familiar "The Act," "The Rink," "Liza With a Z"; the brand-new "Kiss of the Spider Woman"; and the older "Flora, the Red Menace," "The Happy Time" and "70 Girls, 70."

It's an engaging, often ironic stew that also includes some funny special material: the high-calorie "Sara Lee," written for Kaye Ballard, and "Pain," that pseudo-lament for a dancer's bruised muscles that the composer and lyricist contributed to Chita Rivera's signature piece, "Chita."

Ultimately, the show's wit and sophistication lie as much in the shape Ellis and Stroman have given it as in the sequence and selection of the songs. In mood and flavor, the revue recalls such specialty pieces as the Richard Maltby Jr.-David Shire "Closer Than Ever" and "Starting Here, Starting Now." But the difference is that the collage in this case is the work not of the composer and lyricist, but of a director and choreographer who come to honor the material as devoted strangers.

Dickinson's solo rendition of "The World Goes 'Round" launches the event in a deceptively slow crescendo that builds to a potent climax. The show flies from the opening moment, with no gaps in the flow and no punches pulled. Ellis and Stroman move gradually but securely, presenting the first half in a lilting, understated fashion that hardly prepares us for the rich surprises of the second.

There, Ellis, Stroman, musical director David Loud and orchestrator David Krane get down to the brass tacks of reframing the material in such a way that its strengths and/or its familiarity are scrubbed, primped and rejuvenated.

Consider how they flip-flop the humor of "Marry Me" (from "The Rink" and sweetly sung by Blum) into the grand Stroman-induced tap routines of "Quiet Thing" (a terrific rendition by Ziémba from "Flora, the Red Menace"). Consider too the harmonic convergence of three splendid solos: Mazzie singing "Isn't This Better?" from the film "Funny Lady," Dickinson belting "Maybe This Time" from the movie version of "Cabaret," and Ruess pouring his soul into "We Can Make It" ("The Rink").

Gary Stocker may have scored a first by making the sound design at the Fonda really work. The production is also enhanced by Phil Monat's dancing lights and Bill Hoffman's frame set: jagged pages from a dictionary focusing on words that are key to creativity.

By the time we get to the climactic choreography and orchestrations of "Money, Money" and "Cabaret" (harmonizing by all five performers that comes close to Barber Shop Quartet, or in this case, Quintet) there is nothing left of the past except words and music that have rarely seemed so new.

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